

REMARKS

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 4 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McClevey (US 1,396,515). Claim 4 has been amended to recite the presence of knurls in the claimed tire in three distinct regions of the tire. None of the cited art, including McClevey shows the presence of knurls in all three regions of such a tire. McClevey shows knurls in FIG. 3 as residing solely along laterally inward flange surface but does not, and cannot be used to anticipate, the presence of knurls along the radially outer flange contacting surface.

The invention as claimed discloses knurls located in a bead base (36), in the radially inner flange contacting surface (38), *and in the radially outer flange contacting surface (40)*. All such regions are distinct and not merged into one another as clearly shown in FIGS. 3 and 4. McClevey and the other cited art simply do not show such a structure and therefore lack the structural reinforcement that the present invention secures due the presence of interlocking knurls in all three distinct regions.

Claims 4-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikeda (JP 03169727). Likewise, for the reasons above, Ikeda does not show knurls in three distinct regions of a tire as taught and claimed in claims 4-6.0

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McClevey and further in view of Ikeda, Udall (US 4,209,051), and Hino (JP 05139106). For the reasons set forth above, no teaching in any of the cited art supports the placement of knurls in three distinct regions of a tire as claimed in claim 5. No reference or any obvious modification thereof would further lead one skilled in the art to configure knurls in all three distinct regions to have a triangular cross-section as claimed in claim 5.

In light of this amendment, applicant submits that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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